

Application No.: 10/074,272

Amendment and Response dated November 17, 2005

Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

Docket No.: 1199-4 RCE

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] Figure 6 shows an apparatus 20 suitable for the preparation of a pre-mix, addition of an active and subsequent formation of a film. The pre-mix or master batch 22, which includes the film-forming polymer, polar solvent, and any other additives except a drug active is added to the master batch feed tank 24. Then a pre-determined amount of the master batch is controllably fed via a first metering pump 26 and control valve 28 to either or both of the first and second mixers, 30, 31'. The required amount of the drug is added to the desired mixer through an opening in each of the mixers, 32, 32'. After the drug has been blended with the master batch pre-mix for a sufficient time to provide a uniform matrix, a specific amount of the uniform matrix is then fed to the pan 36 through the second metering pumps, 34, 34'. The metering roller 38 determines the thickness of the film 42 and applies it to the application roller 40. The film 42 is finally formed on the substrate 44 and carried away via the support roller 46. The wet film is then dried using controlled bottom drying, desirably in the absence of external air currents or heat on the top (exposed) surface of the film 48 as described herein.